United Nations E/CONF.98/105

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 July 2007
English
Original: French

Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 21-30 August 2007
Item 9 (b) of the provisional agenda*
National standardization: office treatment of names

Office treatment of geographical names in Quebec (Canada)

Submitted by Canada**

Summary

This publication presents a short summary of the activities carried out between 2002 and 2007 relating to the official approval of names, the naming of transportation routes and the collection and dissemination of indigenous names in Quebec (Canada).

Official approval of place names in Quebec

The official geographical nomenclature of Quebec published on the Internet increased significantly from 2002 to 2007 (see data below).

Development of the official geographical nomenclature of Quebec

As at 31 March 2002	*As at 31 March 2007*
217,852 toponyms (including 99,271 names of transportation routes)	226,953 toponyms (including 104,152 names of transportation routes)

In addition, for the same period, the *Commission de toponymie* of Quebec has stored the variations of all these names in its database and other place names have been stored for information purposes. The number of entries increased from 350,761 in 2002 to 373,513 in 2007.

* E/CONF.98/1.
** Prepared by the *Commission de toponymie* (Québec, Canada).

07-41309 (E) 080807 080807

Nomenclature of names of transportation routes

In 2002, a decision by the Government of Quebec came into effect to create large cities by regrouping municipal territories around city centres.

In order to reduce the disadvantages of having transportation routes with identical or very similar names within the same city, the Commission, in collaboration with the municipal authorities who wished to do so, reduced the number of these identical or very similar names by assigning them new designations.

This important activity, carried out in cooperation with the competent municipal authorities, has helped to ensure greater safety for residents, thereby enriching and diversifying the street name heritage of Quebec.

Indigenous toponymy

The Commission's collection of works on indigenous place names in Quebec has been enriched by a publication on Cree toponymy. This document, entitled "*La toponymie des Cris*", the sixth in a series, is available in PDF format on the Commission's web site: www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/publications/publications_pdf.html. In addition, exchanges with the Wendat community of Wendake, near the city of Quebec, have enabled 150 place names in use on the reserve to be catalogued.

Finally, for the twenty-third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), the Commission has prepared a report on its activities related to indigenous names since the beginning of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. This document, entitled "*Promotion des noms géographiques utilisés par les autochtones du Québec*" (Promotion of geographical names used by indigenous people in Quebec), can be consulted on the web site: www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/a_propos/toponymie_authochtone.